

Local Work Group development of local EQIP.

Benton District FY07 EQIP

1. List the local resource concerns that EQIP can address:

- A. Nutrient Management
- B. Manure/Nutrient Runoff from Cropland
- C. Drainage of Wetlands
- D. Feedlot Runoff
- E. Groundwater Quality / Irrigation Water Management
- F. Wildlife Habitat
- G. Soil Erosion
- H. Unused/Unsealed wells
- I. Other resource concerns identified but not ranked included loss of farmland, invasive species, improper grazing, sedimentation, threatened and endangered species.

2. If applicable, list any geographic regions (i.e. watersheds, townships, etc.) and their respective resource concerns within the District to receive priority:

- A. Mayhew Lake and Creek – Surface water, sedimentation, runoff quantity
- B. Elk River Watershed – Surface water
- C. Little Rock Creek Watershed – Surface water, sedimentation
- D. Stony Brook Watershed – Flooding
- E. Upper Mississippi – Source Water Protection Area (SWPA), surface water
- F. City of Sauk Rapids – SWPA, Groundwater
- G. City of Rice – SWPA, Groundwater

3. From items 1 & 2 above prioritize the local resource concerns to be addressed with EQIP funding for the district. Describe a minimum of 3 categories of the highest priority applications which you would want to receive funding.

- A. Nutrient Loading / Surface Water Quality – High priority given to practices involving poultry manure, practices located in the Mayhew Lake or Little Rock Lake Watershed, landowners involved with manure management test plots, and practices in close proximity to watercourses on USGS topographic maps, soils survey maps, or to DNR protected waters.
- B. Flooding/Surface Water Quantity – High priority given to practices addressing flooding in the Stony Brook or Elk River watersheds.

- C. Groundwater Quality – High priority given to practices located within the City of Sauk Rapids or Rice Wellhead Protection Areas that can improve groundwater quality, and to Irrigation Water Management county wide.
 - D. Sedimentation – High priority given to practices that reduce soil erosion in the Little Rock Creek TMDL Watershed and practices applied to fields with a higher potential for erosion.
 - E. Wildlife – High priority will be given to practices that address wildlife fragmentation or install native grassland habitat.
- 4. Develop a minimum of 3 and maximum of 12 yes/no questions to determine if an application is addressing the high priority concerns described in item 3.**
- a. WATER QUALITY – the application will install nutrient/manure management plans (NRCS practice 590) involving poultry manure to address water quality concerns. 7 Points
 - b. WATER QUALITY – the application will install manure management/feedlot practices to address water quality concerns within the Mayhew Lake Watershed or Little Rock Creek TMDL Watersheds. 7 Points
 - c. WATER QUALITY – the application will install nutrient/manure management plans (NRCS practice 590) and is or has been involved in test plots as part of the Elk River Watershed Association's 319 grant. 3 Points
 - d. WATER QUALITY – the application will install any practices that are within 100 feet to any watercourse that is identified on a topographic map, soil survey map, or to any DNR identified protected waters. 9 Points
 - e. FLOODING and SURFACE WATER QUANTITY – the application will install practices to address water quantity for runoff/flooding concerns with a moderate or significant decrease as determined by the Conservation Practice Physical Effects (CPPE) within the Stony Brook Watershed. 1 Point
 - f. FLOODING and SURFACE WATER QUANTITY – the application will install practices to address water quantity for runoff/flooding concerns with a moderate or significant decrease as determined by the Conservation Practice Physical Effects (CPPE) within the Elk River Watershed. 4 Points
 - g. GROUNDWATER QUALITY – the application will install practices to address groundwater quality concerns with a moderate or significant decrease as determined by the Conservation Practice Physical Effects (CPPE) within the City of Sauk Rapids or City of Rice Wellhead Protection Area (WHPA). 3 Points
 - h. GROUNDWATER QUALITY – the application will install irrigation management practices (NRCS practice 442 and or 449) to address groundwater quality concerns. 5 Points
 - i. SEDIMENTATION – the application will install practices that reduce Soil Erosion, for Sheet/Rill, Ephemeral Gully/Concentrated Flow, Classic Gully, or Streambank with a moderate to significant decrease as determined by the Conservation Practice Physical Effects (CPPE) within the Little Rock Creek TMDL Watershed (see map). 7 Points

- j. SEDIMENTATION – the application will install practices to address sedimentation or erosion concerns when: 1. Erosion Index is equal to or greater than 4, or 2. Wind erosion “I” value is equal to or greater than 134, or 3. Gully erosion will be repaired. 7 Points
- k. WILDLIFE – the application will install practices to address wildlife fragmentation concerns by establishing a connection to existing wildlife cover. 1 Point
- l. WILDLIFE – the application will install practices to address wildlife concerns by establishing native grassland habitat. 6 Points

5. Assign points to the questions in Item #4 as desired to reflect local priorities. The total points assigned to the questions must equal exactly 40 points.

Total points add up to 60.

- 6. Submit this worksheet to your respective ASTC(FO). After approval from the state office, the questions will be entered into the Local Issues section of the ranking tool.**
- 7. List any recommended practices to be deleted from the state Conservation Practice Payment Document**

NONE

The local EQIP program description, cost-share docket changes, and ranking worksheet must be reviewed and approved by the State Conservationist before any EQIP contract is approved and signed.

This document serves as the Local Work Group recommendation for FY 07 EQIP. Attached is a roster of participation in the Local Work Group.

Chair, Local Work Group

Date